

citizens has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your service to our great State, and may God bless you and Tina as you enter this new chapter of your life.

IT IS TIME TO RE-EDUCATE WASHINGTON

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, Washington needs to be re-educated on the meaning of “shall not be infringed.”

The Second Amendment insulates the American people from the Federal Government exerting undue influence over them; otherwise known as infringement.

When the Federal Government acts in haste, the room for error is drastically compounded; as is the case with the Democrat gun control bills that are before this very body.

Let me be very clear: The horrific tragedies that occurred in Uvalde and Buffalo are truly heartbreaking. I continue to pray for our society and for the families of the men, women, and children who were senselessly murdered.

Before proposals are put on the table, however, this problem must be diagnosed in its entirety.

The Supreme Court has recognized the right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment.

Further, the Court specifically recognizes that the inherent right to self-defense is protected by the Second Amendment as well.

A study conducted in 2013 estimated that firearms are used in defense from half a million to 3 million times annually. Americans exercise their Second Amendment rights when protecting their family and property. It was not written so that one could go hunting.

As former Senator Tom Coburn once said, “It was to create a force to balance a tyrannical force here.”

The Federal Government should not be in the business of issuing edicts that threaten the Second Amendment rights of Americans. It is a right that cannot be infringed.

GUN CONTROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I have shared before that my father was for many decades a New York City police officer. He had to carry a firearm to protect himself and others, but was acutely aware of individuals on the street, often with guns illegally, who could harm him and those he was tasked to protect.

I do not oppose the right of American citizens to own guns, or intend to rob any constitutional rights. But, we all know that money, hatred, and power have used the Constitution to cover themselves from showing the real intent that they have, the love of greed, desire for power, ignorance, racism, hatred. That is what many are using that constitutional protection to cover themselves from.

Over 50 percent of gun violence is attributable to people who use handguns to commit suicide. The remainder of those deaths and injuries are largely homicide and murder, such as widespread street crime. Then there are mass killings, which have been on an uptick in recent years.

On May 24, in Texas, an 18-year old boy acted as a lone gunman in the second deadliest school shooting on record. Armed with a semiautomatic rifle and 375 rounds of ammunition, he entered Robb Elementary School, opened fire, and laid waste to 19 children and two teachers. The pervasiveness and regularity of such occurrences in the United States has reached epidemic levels.

In 2020, 45,222 Americans died of gun-related injuries, more than any other year on record. That is a 14 percent increase since 2019; a 25 percent increase since 2015; and a 43 percent increase since 2010. In this year alone, almost 19,000 people have already lost their lives; a number, evidenced by the events of the past couple of weeks, are only on the rise.

This weekend alone, over a dozen mass shootings took place: Buffalo, Texas, Philadelphia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Oklahoma, so many more. These mass killings are just the tip of the iceberg with respect to gun violence carnage in America.

Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in this Nation. How many more children will be sacrificed before action is taken? How many more schools will we allow to become battlefields and burial grounds for the sake of the cloak that many are using the Constitution for.

The time for action is now. We know that our gun violence epidemic can be substantially curtailed with thoughtful, reasonable commonsense gun legislation. This includes raising the age, as we have done for so many things, for automatic purchases to 21, and developing and implementing more comprehensive background checks to prevent situations like the Buffalo shooting and the Uvalde massacre.

We need to strengthen gun laws for gun trafficking, which is devastating our country. Areas with strong gun laws cannot curtail the influx of illegal guns trafficked in from States with few restrictions. Places like New York City and Chicago cannot curtail the illegal weapons coming from other places.

With higher unemployment rates, places like my home, the Virgin Islands, has the second highest rate of guns smuggled across its borders and a homicide rate nine times higher than the 50 States.

As well as better establishing and regulating gun storage to prevent minors from acquiring deadly weapons, it is necessary for Members on both sides of this debate to come together to protect the lives of our citizens.

Throw off the cloak that you are using, calling our Constitution to hover and hide what you are really protecting: money, power, hatred.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING STEVE MEINHAUSEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize an extraordinary friend and great servant of the Texas 27th Congressional District, Steve Meinhausen.

Steve came to Texas in 2004 with his wife, Carrie, and four children: Matthew, Makenna, Kacey, and Ellie. Steve and his family brought selfless hearts and an entrepreneurial spirit to our part of south Texas.

Steve opened many businesses during his time, the most famous being Stevie Lew's BBQ. In 2017, when Hurricane Harvey hit Rockport, among his many generous community endeavors, Steve graciously opened his restaurant to feed over 12,000 meals to volunteers and others in need.

Steve has built for his family a legacy of generosity, a sincere love of God, and a strong work ethic. I thank Steve for all he has done for the many people he has blessed in the Rockport-Fulton area. He is truly a servant of God and an exemplary citizen.

It is my honor to recognize Steve for his outstanding service and dedication to family, to community, and to our Nation.

ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, it has been 23 years since Columbine. It has been 15 years since Virginia Tech, 10 years since Sandy Hook, 4 years since Parkland. We have offered prayer and thoughts for years with no real action.

It has been 15 days since the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 children were massacred. One of the students, a 10-year-old girl, survived because she covered herself in the blood of her dead classmate.

We have trained kids to hide under their tables. We have trained teachers to barricade their doors. We have trained schools to lock down their campuses. Now, are we going to train kids to cover themselves with their friend's blood in order to survive?

When are we going to understand the common denominator here is not just criminals but making it easy for criminals to access deadly weapons?

Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Canada all dealt with mass shootings, but there was a national outcry, and they put in place restrictions to stop mass carnage from happening again.

We don't have mental health issues more than any other country. What we do have here are politicians who lack the moral courage to stand up to the NRA. We have a society that is not willing to stand up to protect its citizens, especially its most vulnerable,

which is our beautiful children. We have to be better than that.

We also must remember, Madam Speaker, it is not just mass shootings. It is white supremacists in Buffalo who massacre elders. It is gangs who carnage our neighborhoods, who allow for a 3-year-old in my district to get mowed down by gunfire.

The problem is guns. The problem is our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We have to have the courage to stand up to them and to stand up for our country.

PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, *Roe v. Wade* is fundamentally about privacy. Fifty, 60, 70 years ago, in order for women to access abortion care, they had to go to back-alley clinics and use wire hangers.

In 1973, it was decided that women have a right to make their own decisions about their bodies. We have to be a country that refuses to go back. We have to be a country that refuses to have women in my generation and the generation before enjoy more freedoms than my daughter's generation and the next.

Republicans will say they are the party of freedom and liberty, but they are the party that doesn't believe in liberty and freedom for women. Democrats are the party that is protecting your freedom and expanding liberty, which is why we introduced and passed the Women's Health Protection Act because codifying *Roe v. Wade* into law is essentially about protecting the freedoms for individuals to make their own private decisions about their healthcare.

If you stand for freedom, if you stand for liberty, join us and reject an extremist, fascist, misogynistic, backward party that wants to take us back to the stone age where men dictated what women do with their bodies. Help us exist in a country where our values of uplifting and advancing the rights of individuals still stand.

RAMPANT FOOD INSECURITY

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, one in six children in the United States doesn't have enough food to eat. It is unconscionable that we allow 16 percent of our children here in this country to go hungry.

Right now, MITCH MCCONNELL and Republicans are blocking funding to continue the school waivers that allow for children to continue to eat in schools. Our inability to get these waivers and feed millions of children who are food insecure is inexcusable.

Globally, there are 276 million people facing food insecurity around the world, with countries in the Horn of Africa teetering on the edge of famine. We have an opportunity to get people on board and rally around those who are in need and starving.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF CAROL MARTINEAU BALDWIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carol Martineau Baldwin, who passed away on May 26, 2022, at the age of 92.

Carol was a beloved member of the central New York community and a devoted philanthropist.

A Syracuse native, Carol met her husband, Alexander Baldwin, while attending Syracuse University. They were married in 1954 and had six children.

The family lived in Long Island, where Alexander taught at Massapequa High School until his death from lung cancer in 1983. Carol moved back to Syracuse and, in 1990, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She nearly lost her battle with breast cancer but overcame it following a double mastectomy.

Following this experience, she dedicated her life to helping others fight breast cancer. In 1996, she founded the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund on the campus of SUNY Stony Brook. Five years later, in conjunction with SUNY Upstate Medical University, the Carol M. Baldwin Fund of Central New York was established in Syracuse.

To date, the Baldwin fund has provided more than 60 grants to support research programs and has spurred nearly \$24 million in additional grant funding. The fund supports numerous programs, including studies of contributing factors to breast cancer, education of medical professionals and the general public, and studies of the outcomes of detection and treatment on patients and families.

Outside of her philanthropic work, Carol has been a prominent fixture in our community, and many in her family are dear friends to my wife, Robin, and me.

For the last two decades, breast cancer patients in central New York and throughout the country have benefited from the steadfast commitment of Carol Baldwin.

Carol is survived by her six children, 25 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. While she will be dearly missed in our community, central New Yorkers will continue to honor her legacy.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the life and legacy of Carol Martineau Baldwin. May she rest in peace.

PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7910, the Protecting Our Kids Act.

As we all know by now, on May 24, 21 children and teachers were senselessly murdered in Uvalde, Texas. Just 10 days earlier, 10 Black people were killed in a racially motivated hate crime.

For decades, the epidemic of gun violence has gripped this country, depriving Americans of their neighbors, siblings, children, and friends. On average, over 38,000 people die from gun violence every year in this country, including, on average, over 1,600 children. That is roughly an average of five kids every day.

Think about that: Five children being murdered, committing suicide, or being killed by the unintentional discharge of a weapon every day in America.

I do not pretend that this bill will save every one of those children or stop racially motivated murder in our Nation, but the idea that we simply stand back and do nothing and expect this problem to resolve itself is nonsense.

It offends the tens of thousands of gun violence victims every year, their families, and communities that are ravaged by unending tragedy. We can and we must take steps, meaningful steps, to reduce gun violence.

This bill will restrict the sale of assault-style weapons to those over the age of 21 years old. It will close longstanding and dangerous loopholes in Federal law, require that firearms sold in the United States be traceable, and help prevent gun trafficking, among other steps. These are measured, commonsense, and widely supported measures that would help reduce gun violence in our country.

As an American, as a Congresswoman, and as a mother of two children, I implore the Members of the House and the Senate to pass this bill. I am pleading with this Congress to set aside partisanship, dogma, and reflexive bickering. Now is the time to come together and act in unison to end the violence in our schools and on our streets.

RECOGNIZING KOREAN WAR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize veterans of the Korean war as this month marks the 72nd anniversary of the war's beginning.

Sadly, the Korean war is too often referred to as the forgotten war. I am here today to recognize the 5.7 million American men and women who served in that war, along with seven Korean war veterans our community lost in the past year: Albert A. Fowler, Ralph M. Lanza, Thomas H. O'Rourke, Nicholas J. Matranga, Walter H. Zipf, Robert Klose, and Hermando J. Folla.

These veterans put their lives on the line to defend our Nation and to fight